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26 February 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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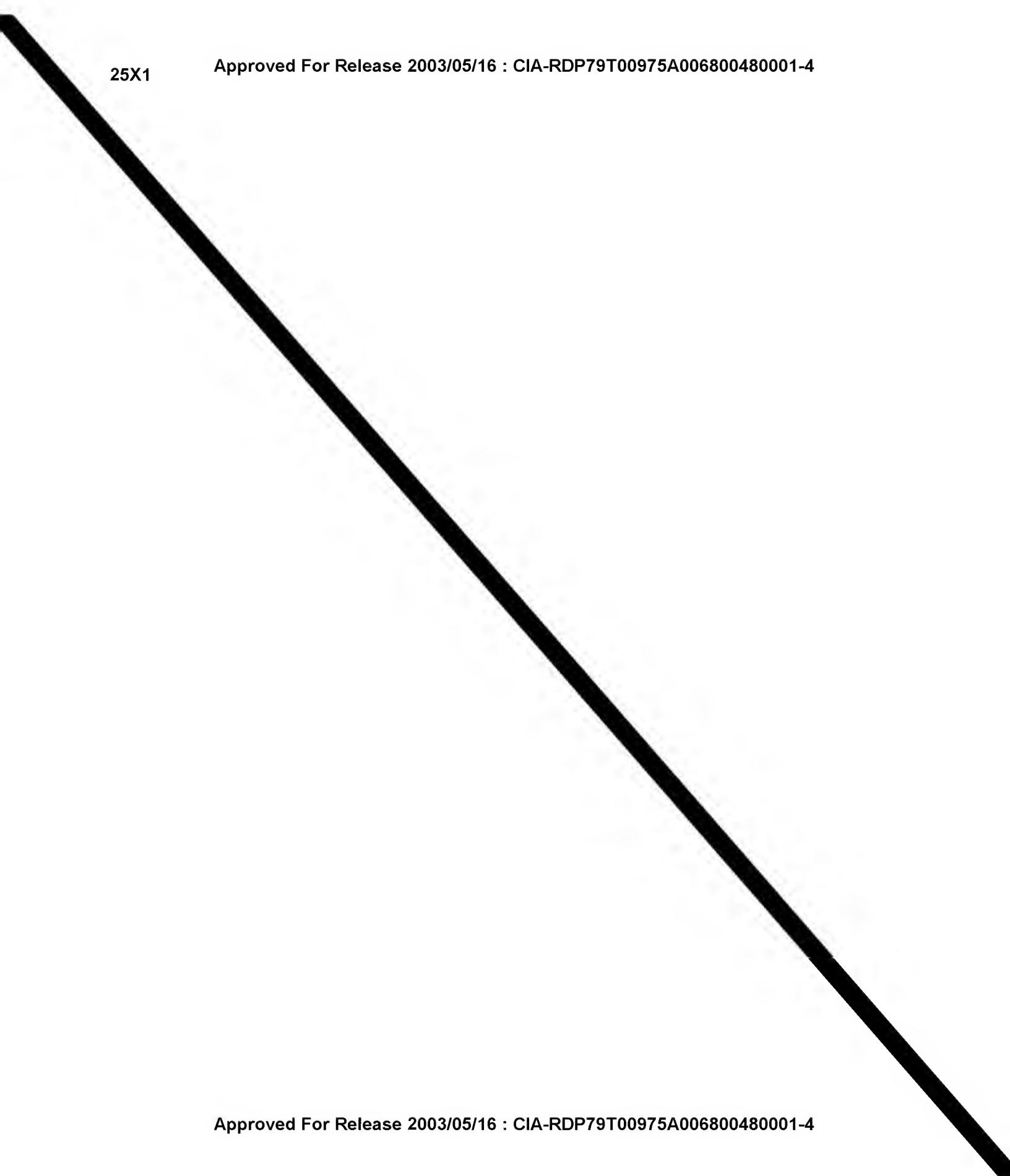
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Brazil: [President Goulart's appointment of leftists to high military posts is weakening the influence of anti-Communist officers.]

[Officers known to be friendly to the United States "have been gradually losing their good jobs," according to the US ambassador in Rio de Janeiro, and those without strong convictions are in consequence tending to lean toward the leftist faction.]

[General Kruel, the pro-Western minister of war, still has sufficient support within the officer corps to block illegal or pro-Communist action either by Goulart or leftist military officers. This support, however, may be subject to some erosion as a result of officers joining the leftist faction in order to be promoted.]

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USSR: Khrushchev is evidently concerned over Western press allegations that the Soviet drive against economic crime masks a purge of Jews.

In response to a plea from Bertrand Russell that Jews facing execution for economic offenses be spared, Khrushchev asserted in a letter of 24 February that such punishments are meted out against all lawbreakers regardless of nationality.

An increasing number of Soviet Jews have been executed or sent to prison for economic crimes during recent weeks. Well over half of the 135 persons known to have been executed since the inception of the anticrime drive in May 1961 were Jewish.

At a meeting of top leaders with members of the cultural intelligentsia in December, Khrushchev emphatically denied that there is any anti-Semitism in the USSR. He added, however, that it is "of course necessary to limit the number of Jews in certain party and state posts, but this is for sound political reasons and is not anti-Semitism. Too many Jews in power always cause trouble." A few minutes later he apologized to the writer Ilya Ehrenburg, stating that there was "nothing personal" in his remarks.

NOTES

South Korea: The departure of controversial former security chief Kim Chong-pil on 25 February for a world tour will improve prospects for a relatively smooth transition to civilian government. An investigation of corruption throughout the government, including the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency, is under way. Kim's future power status probably will largely depend on the extent he is incriminated and his supporters removed from influential posts.

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